

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01799 091921Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 MCE-00

/098 W

-----055968 091925Z /44

O 091518Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0378

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, BC, RH

SUBJECT: BORDER CLASH AT KASANE

REF: HOOVER/DAVIDOW TELECON AUGUST 9, 1977

1. THE FOLLOWING RELEASE WAS ISSUED AFTERNOON AUGUST 9, 1977,
BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT:

QUOTE: THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT
RHODESIAN FORCES HAVE ATTACKED THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE BASE
CAMP AT KASANE. THIS ATTACK WAS PRECEDED BY A MASSIVE BUILD-
UP OF RHODESIAN TROOPS ALONG THE BOTSWANA/RHODESIA BORDER WHEN
REBEL FORCES WERE BROUGHT TO THE AREA IN FOUR TROOP CARRIERS
AND A FEW ARMOURED VEHICLES.

THEY TOOK POSITION ON THE RHODESIAN SIDE BUT DIRECTLY
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OPPOSITE THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE CAMP. THEN AT ABOUT 1230
THIS AFTERNOON THEY STARTED SHELLING OUR BOTSWANA
DEFENSE FORCE CAMP WITH MORTAR AND OTHER HEAVY WEAPONS.
THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE RETURNED FIRE AND FIGHTING
WAS GOING ON AT THE TIME THIS RELEASE WAS ISSUED. END
QUOTE.

2M UN HICOM FIRST SECRETARY RAFTERY TOLD US THAT WHILE ON VISIT TO BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE HEADQUARTERS THIS AFTERNOON, HIGH COMMISSIONER TURNER WAS TOLD THAT AFFAIR BEGAN WHEN RHODESIANS INITIATED ANOTHER DESULTORY MORTAR EXCHANGE WITH THE ZAMBIANS IN THE QUADRA-POINT AREA AT KASANE AND (NOT HAVING MORTARS OF THEIR OWN) THE BATSWANA JOINED IN WITH SMALL ARMS. TURNER WAS ALSO TOLD THAT RHODESIAN ARMORED VEHICLES WERE IN THE AREA.

3. COMMENT: AT FIRST SIGHT, RHODESIAN ATTACK DESCRIBED IN RELEASE PARA 1 APPEARS TO BE SPINOFF OF ZAMBIAN/RHODESIAN CLASH AND NOT PLANNED ATTACK AGAINST THE BDF. FOR THE MOMENT AFFAIR APPEARS TO BE SIMILAR IN MAGNITUDE TO THE OTHER CLASHES ALONG THE RHODESIAN/BOTSWANA BORDER THIS YEAR WHICH LASTED NO MORE THAN AN HOUR OR SO. WILL ADVISE AS MORE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, BORDER INCIDENTS, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GABORO01799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770286-0704
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770883/aaaacrwo.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5fbdc5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1666734
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BORDER CLASH AT KASANE
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, BC, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbsc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5fbdc5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009